



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
**ALASKA OPERATIONS OFFICE**  
Room 537, Federal Building  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #19  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7588

Koliganek Village Council  
New Stuyahok Traditional Council  
Ekwok Village Council  
Native Village of Aleknagik  
Curyung Tribal Council  
Ekuk Village Council  
Clark's Point Village Council  
Portage Creek Village Council  
Nondalton Tribal Council  
Iliamna Village Council  
Newhalen Tribal Council  
Pedro Bay Village Council  
Kokhanok Village Council  
Igiugig Village Council  
Levelock Village Council

**RE: Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Traditional Knowledge Effort**

Dear Tribal President:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is planning to collect Traditional Knowledge (TK) information to assist with preparing the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.

EPA is conducting a scientific analysis of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development may affect water quality and the salmon fishery. The information gathered will help guide future actions to protect the waters and promote sustainable development.

EPA's efforts will focus on two areas -- the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds. To view the outline for EPA's watershed assessment and other recent news, please check out the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/region10/bristolbay](http://www.epa.gov/region10/bristolbay).

EPA has contracted with Alan Boraas, Professor of Anthropology, and Catherine Knott, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, from the Kenai Peninsula College to conduct this TK effort. There is enough funding for them to visit about six communities in the Bristol Bay region to do this work. EPA is focusing this TK effort in the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds and would like to conduct interviews in the following communities: Ekwok, Koliganek, Iliamna, Newhalen,

Nondalton, and Igiugig, however EPA needs to hear from the tribal governments of these villages that they want to participate in this effort.

If your community believes that it should be included in this effort, please submit a written request to Tami Fordham, Alaska Resource Extraction Tribal Policy Advisor, no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. EPA is requesting that the tribal governments provide a written statement of support for their community to participate in this project and also a designated tribal representative to work with Dr. Boraas to identify Elders and Culture Bearers that he should interview in the community. EPA will consider each request, and include additional communities in the TK data collection process as time and resources permit.

Although it is not feasible to collect TK data from all Bristol Bay communities through interviews, communities may also opt to send Dr. Boraas written TK information relevant to EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. A draft list of questions is enclosed for your consideration. We would appreciate any written information by August 31, 2011. Please work directly with Dr. Boraas to submit any written TK information.

Dr. Boraas has included an introductory letter, methodology for the study, the draft interview questions, and the consent form. If you have any comments on the interview questions or any of the materials included please submit those in writing, directly to Dr. Boraas, no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

The scheduling of the community visits will occur in August. EPA understands that this is a busy time for subsistence but we are hoping that there will be a window of opportunity that will work for the community to participate in this effort. The TK report will be included in the draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment which is scheduled to be compiled and ready for public review in the Spring of 2012. EPA is working with a team of scientists to draft the assessment and we hope that you will participate in the TK collection effort so that it can be incorporated into the assessment.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. Please contact me at (907)271-1217 or [parkin.richard@epa.gov](mailto:parkin.richard@epa.gov), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter. You may also contact Tami Fordham, EPA's Alaska Resource Extraction Tribal Policy Advisor, at (907)271-1484 or [fordham.tami@epa.gov](mailto:fordham.tami@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard Parkin  
Acting Alaska Operations Office Director

Enclosures  
CC: Tribal Environmental Coordinators (via email)

